

### Our On-Site Partners

- Association of Haitian Women (AFAB)
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- Boston Police Department / Family Justice Division
  - Crimes Against Children Unit
  - Domestic Violence (DV) Unit
  - MA Human Trafficking Task Force
- Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Suffolk County
  - The CAC's On-site Partners:
  - The Child Witness to Violence Project of Boston Medical Center
  - MA Department of Social Services
  - MA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
  - MA Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (PediSANE)
  - The Trauma Center at JRI
- Casa Myrna Vazquez
- Dress for Success Boston
- Finex House / Kim's Project
- Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project
- GLBT DV Attorney Program
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Link Up Education Network / Noah's Ark Foster Care Program
- MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
- MA Department of Transitional Assistance DV Unit
- The Network/ La Red
- Suffolk County DA's Office / Family Protection and Sexual Assault Unit
- Victim Rights Law Center

### FJC Partner Profile: Ellen Sullivan-Labombarda, Victim Rights Law Center

**Organization:** Victim Rights Law Center (VRLC)

**Name / Position:** Ellen-Sullivan Labombarda, Staff Attorney

**Mission/Vision:**

The mission of the Victim Rights Law Center is to transform the nation's legal response to assure each sexual assault victim private, legal representation.

The VRLC is the first non-profit law center in the U.S. begun solely to serve the civil legal needs of sexual assault survivors. Its services are designed to help provide post-assault stabilization for victims by protecting their privacy, allowing them to stay in school, or helping them to maintain employment, immigration status and safe housing.

It is our vision that sexual assault victims will be given all of the mental, physical, emotional and legal support that they need to continue their lives on as normal a trajectory as possible.

**Why is VRLC an on-site partner at the Family Justice Center of Boston?**

Our goals in serving as an on-site partner include:

1. Making direct civil legal assistance available to victims of sexual assault (SA) at the FJC.
2. Reaching diverse and traditionally underserved populations in Suffolk County, including SA victims of color and ethnic/cultural/linguistic minorities.
3. Coordinating access to civil legal assistance for SA victims at other community sites.
4. Using our FJC partnership to maintain and strengthen existing civil legal resources for victims of SA.

**How does your partnership at the FJC help to advance your organization's mission?**

Our partnership at the FJC helps us advance our organization's mission to transform the nation's legal response to rape by helping us reach the diverse and traditionally underserved populations that utilize the FJC while collaborating with FJC partners to

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### New On-Site Partner Finds Foster Homes for Survivors' Pets

Learn more about Link Up Education Network  
page 3 →

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### Family Justice Center of Boston

Open for service  
**Monday to Friday**  
**9:00 am –5:00 pm**

**989 Common-  
wealth Avenue**  
**Boston MA 02215**

**617 779-2100**

### FJC Survivor Fund Helps Meet Urgent Needs

It's never easy for someone who is living with the effects of domestic violence, child abuse or sexual assault to come to the FJC for services. Reaching out for help takes courage. It also takes transportation. For many, just getting something to eat can really help as well. We created the FJC Survivor Fund to help meet a few of the more urgent needs of individuals and families served at the Family Justice Center. Through the Survivor Fund, FJC Partners can now offer their clients MBTA Charlie Cards, quarters for street parking and Shaw's Supermarket gift cards. These resources are made available through the generous donations of FJC Partners and visitors to the Center. All donations are accepted at the FJC reception desk. The next time you visit the FJC, please consider giving whatever you can. By building and strengthening the Fund, we hope to be able to offer other critical forms of assistance as well. **Your support really matters to those who need it. Thank you!**

## FJC Partner Profile: Victim Rights Law Center

*"The VRLC...is committed to the dual challenge of finding ways to help the criminal justice system improve its response (e.g. more reporting, prosecution, conviction and incarceration) and at the same time advocate for and create solutions for the needs of sexual assault survivors outside of the criminal justice system."*



Ellen Sullivan-Labombarda

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maintain and strengthen existing civil legal resources for victims of SA.

### **What are the biggest challenges that Victim Rights Law Center must overcome to advance its mission?**

Many professionals who respond to the needs of sexual assault survivors do not fully understand survivors' special civil legal needs, and are therefore unable to adequately address them. Most approach survivor services from a criminal justice model, which can be excellent for holding perpetrators accountable but does not serve all of a victim's needs.

The VRLC, along with other advocates for sexual assault survivors, is committed to the dual challenge of finding ways to help the criminal justice system improve its response (e.g. more reporting, prosecution, conviction and incarceration) and at the same time advocate for and create solutions for the needs of

sexual assault survivors outside of the criminal justice system.

**For example:** An immigrant, college woman is the victim of a sexual assault in her dorm room after Thanksgiving but before the end of the fall semester.

### **Some approaches VRLC might present to the victim:**

1.) If the client is unable to stay in school, negotiate with the college to assure that the victim receives academic credit and even pro-rated tuition credit for the college course work she has completed up until the time she left school after the assault. 2.) If she feels she is able to stay at the college but not in her dorm, negotiate a no-cost, housing transfer (or, similar negotiation if she is living off campus and paying rent to a private landlord). 3.) To ensure that she maintains her immigration status, work with the school to assure her student immigration status until she is able to return to school full-time (as required for most student visas). 4.) If she chooses to report the sexual assault to the police, provide legal advice and representation throughout the criminal justice proceedings to assert and protect her rights, including her privacy rights.

### **Do you have an FJC success story to share?**

A great VRLC/FJC success story repeats itself every few weeks. Clients are sent to the VRLC because FJC partners know us through our presence on-site here. This physical

presence at the FJC and our active participation in collaborative work with partners allows us to constantly get the word out to service providers and their clients about our work.

We have met and been able to serve new clients through on-site partners including the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, the Boston Police Department, the MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers, Greater Boston Legal Services, the Department of Transitional Assistance, the Association of Haitian Women, the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project, Finex House and others.

**Ellen Sullivan-Labombarda works on-site at the FJC most Thursdays, 9:00 am-5:00 pm.**

**She can also be reached at VRLC's main office at (617) 399-6720 and at Ellensullivan-labombarda@victimrights.org**

**www.victimrights.org**

**Turn to Events and Opportunities (page 5) for your invitation to the Victim Rights Law Center's**

**SHINING STAR AWARDS RECEPTION**

**Thursday, June 7**

## New On-site Partner Joins the FJC: Link Up Education Network / Noah's Ark Foster Care Program

The FJC is proud to welcome The Link Up Education Network's Noah's Ark Foster Care Program as our newest on-site partner.

The Link Up Education Network seeks to increase the awareness about the relationship between animal abuse and violence toward people, and to develop programs to reduce violence toward both people and animals by working as a coalition of organizations and individuals.

The Noah's Ark Foster Care Program is a new program that can help provide assistance finding temporary housing for pets whose owners are leaving do-

mestic violence situations.

As an FJC Partner, Noah's Ark will help coordinate confidential, temporary foster homes for these pets when family members or friends cannot take the animal(s). Because many domestic violence shelters do not accept pets, this program will help domestic violence service providers include a plan for pets when victims are leaving a situation with the goal of eventually reuniting the animal with the owner.

They work with veterinarians, shelters and volunteer foster homes to provide a temporary safe home until the animal is able to be reclaimed. Noah's Ark will also provide



assistance and planning to domestic violence service providers with clients who are thinking of leaving an abusive home with an animal.

**Interested in  
Becoming a  
Foster Caretaker  
through the  
Noah's Ark  
Program?**

**Turn to  
Events and  
Opportunities  
(page 7)**

## Through a Visitor's Eyes: The FJC as Hub of Cooperative Activity

In addition to providing access to a wide range of victim/survivor services through our many on-site partner organizations, the FJC has become a center for professional development. Both on-site and off-site partner organizations host workshops and training activities at the FJC on a weekly basis. The presence of such a diverse group of seasoned professionals and the availability of large, comfortable meeting spaces on-site are helping the FJC realize its mission of becoming a "hub of cooperative activity." (See our Mission Statement on page 4.)

Mira Naanes is a Regional Substance Abuse Specialist with the RAYS Program at the Institute for Health and Recovery. She visited the FJC for the first time recently and had this to say: "I

was delighted and amazed at the rich variety of services housed in the collaborative at The Family Justice Center. I had no idea. It is great. I wanted to join in when I got a sense of what it offers. I went around to as many as possible on one of my breaks and had a wonderful connection with Nneka Jenkins at Dress for Success. I hope to come back soon to spend more time meeting people there and discussing how they work together."

Ms. Naanes came to the FJC to participate in "Trauma-Informed Treatment with Sexually Exploited Adolescent Girls: A Training for MA Department of Youth Services Providers". The training, which was hosted by the Home for Little Wanderers and the Children's Trauma Recovery Foundation, offered the 35+ participants an opportunity

to: increase their understanding of the physiological, psychological, and spiritual impact of the trauma of sexual exploitation; learn and collectively develop concrete strategies and skills to augment a healthy recovery, grounded in trauma theory; and critically examine their individual identity when working with this population and develop self-care plans to support their effectiveness.

Ms. Naanes provides substance abuse treatment services to youth aged 13-18 (and in some cases up to 21) who are in the custody of the MA Department of Youth Services in the Northeast Region.

For more information about the RAYS Program, visit [www.healthrecovery.org](http://www.healthrecovery.org) and select Regional Access to Youth Services (RAYS) under Projects.

*"I was delighted and amazed at the rich variety of services housed in the collaborative at The Family Justice Center. I had no idea. It is great. I wanted to join in when I got a sense of what it offers...I hope to come back soon to spend more time meeting people there and discussing how they work together."*

## Our Mission

The Family Justice Center (FJC) of Boston fosters collaboration in service to victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault. We provide a safe and welcoming environment where individuals and families benefit from the availability of services offered by diverse nonprofit and governmental partner organizations. We are committed to complementing and enhancing the health of victim service organizations throughout Boston. As a hub of cooperative activity, the FJC facilitates continuous learning and serves as a resource center for professional development. We strive to coordinate violence intervention and prevention services that are culturally responsive and accessible to all victims.

## Our Vision

**The Family Justice Center of Boston envisions justice for victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.**

**Justice for victims will mean that:**

- ◇ Police, prosecutors and service providers collaborate closely and offer coordinated responses which minimize additional trauma and promote the safety, dignity, well-being and rights of all.
- ◇ Law enforcement and criminal justice practices reflect a deep understanding of the dynamics of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.
- ◇ Useful information about available services and support reaches everyone who needs it.
- ◇ Governmental and community-based organizations are culturally responsive; provide appropriate, accessible and equitable services to all who need them; and are accountable to the communities that they serve.
- ◇ There are no gaps in service or “cracks in the system”.
- ◇ Victims are respected and are never blamed for the violence and abuse.
- ◇ Child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault are not socially tolerated.
- ⇒ **Rates of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault are reduced until we are able to stop these crimes entirely.**

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## Events and Opportunities

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### Victim Rights Law Center Shining Star Awards Reception

Please join us as we honor the individuals and organizations that have improved the lives of sexual assault survivors through exemplary service, courage and leadership and celebrate our 150 pro-bono attorneys and legal paraprofessionals who have helped our staff to assist more than 360 clients in the past year.

#### SHINING STAR AWARDS RECEPTION

**DATE:** Thursday, June 7, 2007

**TIME:** 6:00-8:00pm

**LOCATION:** Goulston & Storrs, P.C., 400  
Atlantic Avenue, The Waterfront, Boston

#### HONOREES:

##### SHINING STAR AWARD

Rebecca Cazabon, Esquire, Foley Hoag LLP

Ms. Cazabon has advanced the civil legal rights of sexual assault survivors in Massachusetts through both direct representation of clients and her extraordinary pro bono recruitment for the VRLC's Rape Survivors' Law Project.

##### SUSAN ESTRICH COURAGE AWARD

Sarah Deer, Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Ms. Deer's fearless legal work has provided an essential voice for Native American sexual assault survivors, and her creative vision has placed the development of sexual assault jurisprudence central to the struggle for sovereignty.

##### LEADERSHIP AWARD

Diane Moyer, Esquire, and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR)

As legal director of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR), Ms. Moyer has been at the forefront of the anti-sexual violence movement. In particular, she has been critical to ensuring that the federal Violence Against Women Act's Legal Assistance to Victims Grant program was expanded to include sexual assault, advancing the civil legal rights of victims for years to come.

*Individual tickets are \$75; sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, please contact*

*Monica Orta at 617-399-6720, email: [morta@victimrights.org](mailto:morta@victimrights.org) or visit our website: <http://victimrights.org>*

### THE HAITIAN ROUNDTABLE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Presents

our

### Sixth Annual Clergy Breakfast

**Keynote Speaker:** Reverend Paul Daniel

**Keeping our Families Safe Means  
Keeping our Community Safe**

**WHERE:** Mass Community Health  
Services (MCHS)  
1106 Main Street, Suite 109  
Brockton, MA 02301

**DATE:** Saturday, June 9, 2007

**TIME:** 9AM to 12PM

For more information and/or to  
RSVP please contact us...

**330 Fuller Street  
Dorchester, MA 02124  
617-287-0096 / 617-287-0170 (F)  
[cbonhometre@afab-kafanm.org](mailto:cbonhometre@afab-kafanm.org)**

### THE HAITIAN ROUNDTABLE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### Annual Domestic Violence Forum August 18

**Catholic Charities/ Haitian Multi-  
Service Center Auditorium**  
185 Columbia Road, Dorchester, MA.

For more information or to RSVP, call  
Carmelle Bonhometre at 617-287-0096.

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## Events and Opportunities

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### Getting to the FJC

The FJC is located near the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Babcock St. in Brighton.

**Parking:** Metered parking is available. Ask about special parking for victims at the front desk.

**By the "T":** Take the Green Line "B" train (Boston College) to either the Pleasant Street or the Babcock Street stop (just past BU's Agganis Arena); both are less than one block from the Family Justice Center.

**On the MBTA Bus:** Take any of the following bus routes to Kenmore Square: 8, 57, 60, 65, 8A. Board the 57 Bus towards Watertown Yard. Get off at the Brighton Avenue Stop (by Shaws Supermarket). Walk 2 blocks east to 989 Comm. Ave.

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### Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County Seminar Series

#### Violence on the Streets of Boston: Supporting the Children

**Deb Socia**, Principal, Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School  
**Emmanuel Ijeoma Tikili**, Program Manager, Boston Ten Point Coalition  
**Anthony Toombs**, Director, Children's Trauma Recovery Foundation

A diverse panel—including an educator, clinician and clergy representative—will provide a forum for community providers to:

1. Talk about how the recent surge in violence is impacting children in their everyday lives;
2. Learn identifying factors related to vicarious trauma;
3. Hear helpful tips to guide a thoughtful response to children's worries and fears.

**Thursday June 14, 2007**

**9:30 am – 11:30 am**

**Northeastern University  
360 Huntington Avenue**

**Curry Student Center, Rooms 318,320-322**

Take the Green Line to Northeastern or the Orange Line to Ruggles  
Parking available at the Renaissance Park Garage, 788 Columbus Ave.

For additional information, contact  
the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)  
617 779-2146 or [cac@suf.state.ma.us](mailto:cac@suf.state.ma.us)

Co-sponsored by Center for Community Health, Education,  
Research and Services (CCHERS)

**The CAC Seminar Series is offered free of charge and no pre-registration is required!**

*Do you want to help animals  
and people at the same time?*

*Do you have space in your home and heart  
to provide temporary care for a pet?*

### Please join the Link Up Education Network

**at a training for its**

### Noah's Ark Foster Care Program

The Noah's Ark Foster Care Program coordinates temporary housing for the pets of victims of domestic violence. Find out about becoming a foster caretaker and other volunteer opportunities in this program.

**Monday, June 11, 2007  
6:30-8:00 pm**

**Family Justice Center of Boston  
989 Commonwealth Ave.  
Boston MA 02215**

**Please RSVP to 617 343-6408**

## FJC Staff Directory

To speak with an FJC Partner organization or for general information, please call the main number: (617) 779-2100. Our reception staff, **Ellena Haile** and **Verlana Morales**, will be glad to help you.

For information about the FJC's child care service, please contact: **Nancy Reyes, Child Care Specialist** (617) 779-2143

To make a financial or in-kind contribution to the FJC, for inquiries related to outreach, communications or volunteer / internship opportunities, and for general information, please contact: **Richard Amory, Assistant Development Director** (617) 779-2152  
[richard.amory@cityofboston.gov](mailto:richard.amory@cityofboston.gov)

To inquire about potential partnerships, use of the FJC facility and other opportunities for collaboration, please contact: **Susan Goldfarb, Interim Director** (617) 779-2149